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worker; the eighth, where among other interesting matter, the position is held that the New Testament authenticates the historical material of the Old though not verifying all its details, e. g. in the early chapters of Genesis an historical basis must be admitted, and the statements about Moses and David's writings in the N. T. do not in most cases commit our Lord or the apostles to the endorsement of the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch or the Davidic authorship of the Psalms; the tenth, in which inerrancy is regarded as not proved if indeed it is not rejected; and the eleventh, which very forcibly and fairly though sometimes too narrowly defines the province and bounds of biblical criticism.

Every minister should have this book and study it seriously and thoroughly, testing its assertions and conclusions by common-sense and the latest results of investigation. Its defects are, as might be expected, such as result from its wide scope. No one man can master this entire field so as to speak with authority and insight concerning all its parts. Dr. Mead is, however, a scholar and a wide reader. His analytic ability and excellent method enable him to do a fine service in blocking out the ground for the individual student to fill up and correct where further study may require it.

#### Ecclesiastes.

*The Book of Ecclesiastes*; with a new translation. [The Expositor's Bible.] By Samuel Cox, D. D. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son. Pp. 335. Price \$1.50.

The authorship of Ecclesiastes, according to Dr. Cox, must be denied to Solomon, both language and historical and social background forbidding it. The difficulty is, when once this position has been taken, to find any time which will suit these things. Our author holds that it appeared in the fourth century B. C., from the hand of one of "the wise," addressed to the degenerate and enfeebled Judaism of the period of the Persian supremacy. He denies any special Greek influence in the book, holding that its design was "to deliver the exiled (sic) Jews from the misleading ethical theories into which they had fallen, from the sensualism and the scepticism occasioned by their imperfect conception of the Divine ways, by showing them that the true good of life results from a temperate and thankful enjoyment of the gifts of this Divine bounty, and a cheerful endurance of toil and calamity, combined with a sincere service of God and a steadfast faith in that future life in which all wrongs will be righted and all problems receive a triumphant solution." "Availing himself of the historical and traditional records of Solomon's life, he depicts under that disguise, the moral experiments which he has conducted." The exposition of Dr. Cox will, therefore, be found to proceed along these lines. The excellence as well as the weakness of his work appears in this. He seems to fail to give due strength to the pessimistic elements which, not only in the popular impression but to the student, form the background if not the motive of the writing. To the literary and critical problems of which Ecclesiastes is full little heed is paid. The historical background is not worked into any detailed relation to the poem. The value of the translation and exposition is in their general religious helpfulness rather than in their particularly scholarly qualities. In the description of death (12: 1-7) the medical and physical interpretation is stoutly denied and the description is regarded as the approach and effects of a storm. Dr. Cox's book is interesting and for religious instruction and popular reading will be found enlightening.